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Chairman
4th District, Oklahoma

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and
2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1882—Small Business Review Panel Technical Amendments Act
**H.R. 435—Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act (Agreeing to
Senate Amendments)**
H.R. 1915—“Jennifer’s Law” Act



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following three bills under suspension of the rules as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 1882—Small Business Review Panel Technical Amendments Act amends the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (*P.L. 104-121*, SBREFA) to make technical corrections and to require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to assemble advocacy review panels to assess the impact of new regulations on small businesses. Current law directs only the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to convene such review panels. H.R. 1882 requires each agency (EPA, OSHA, or IRS) to consult with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration when choosing small entity representatives (SERs). The bill directs the agency to provide SERs with adequate information to review any proposed regulations at least 30 days before a review panel convenes. A SER may request an oral presentation instead of a telephone conference call. In addition, the bill requires the notice of proposed rulemaking and the review panel’s report to be printed in the *Federal Register* within 120 days.

American businesses spend over \$700 billion annually to comply with federal regulations, and small businesses bear a disproportionate share of these costs. In order to ease the burden of federal regulatory costs on small businesses, Congress in 1996 passed the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act to

ensure that rules proposed by the EPA and OSHA and their potential impacts on small entities are fully analyzed before being implemented. This process allows small businesses to voice their concerns through a regulatory review panel before new federal rules are implemented.

CBO estimates that enactment of H.R. 1882 will cost the IRS less than \$2 million a year, assuming appropriation of the necessary funds. In addition, enactment will cost EPA, OSHA, OMB, and the SBA less than \$500,000 a year. The bill was introduced by Mr. Talent *et al.* and was reported by the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on May 25, 1999.

H.R. 435—Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act (Agreeing to Senate Amendments), as amended by the Senate, makes numerous minor and technical changes to a variety of current trade and customs law provisions, as well as a number of duty suspensions and tariff reductions. Specifically, the measure temporarily suspends duties imposed for certain imported pharmaceutical products used to develop HIV/AIDS and cancer drugs, as well as other environmentally-friendly chemical substitutes.

The bill includes numerous trade provisions, including measures to (1) extend permanent normal trade relations status to Mongolia; (2) provide duty-free treatment to all participants and individuals associated with the 1999 Special Olympics, the 1999 Women's World Cup, the 2001 International Special Olympics, the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympics, and the 2002 Winter Para-Olympics; (3) conform U.S. laws to an international agreement regarding the duty-free importation of large scientific instruments; (4) extend trade benefits under the Production Incentive Certificate program to jewelry makers in the insular possessions of the United States; and (5) enhance passenger services on cruise ships entering U.S. territorial waters (by providing additional customs inspectors to facilitate travel clearance activities).

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) estimate that enactment will increase governmental receipts by \$4 million and decrease direct spending by \$3 million over the FY 1999-2004 period. The bill was introduced by Messrs. Archer, Crane, Rangel, and Levin and was not considered by a House committee.

On May 27, 1999, the Senate considered an amended version of H.R. 435, striking the House language and replacing it with the text of the Senate version of the measure (S. 262)—and then passing it by unanimous consent. The House passed H.R. 435 by a vote of 414-1 on February 9, 1999. The Senate version makes only minor amendments to the House-passed measure.

H.R. 1915—Jennifer's Law Act authorizes the Attorney General to provide \$2 million for each of FYs 2000-2002 for states to cover the costs associated with entering complete files of unidentified victims into two nationwide databases maintained by the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), the Missing Persons File and the Unidentified Persons File. To be eligible for grants under the bill, a state must include in its application for a grant award assurances that it will (1) report to the NCIC and, when possible, to law enforcement authorities throughout the state regarding every deceased unidentified person found in its jurisdiction; (2) enter a complete profile of an unidentified person, including dental records, x-rays, and fingerprints, if available; (3) enter the NCIC number or other appropriate number assigned to the unidentified person on his or her death certificate; and (4) retain all of an unidentified person's records until the person is identified. The bill was introduced by Mr. Lazio *et al.* and was not considered by a House committee.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVIII, #16, June 4, 1999.

